

# ABOUT OUR CAMP DIRECTOR

## Teen Expeditions Director: Rebecca Learnard



This is Rebecca's 2nd summer as Director for the Northampton Parks & Recreation Department's Teen Expeditions Summer Camp.

Prior to being Director for the Teen Expeditions Summer Camp, Rebecca spent two summers as a teen counselor at Camp Howe. She led and assisted activities, archery and was a full participant in all things s'mores, capture the mattress, and of course cabin chat.

Rebecca has spent this past school year on the West Coast teaching science at an outdoor education camp in the Redwood forest area of California! She would spend her days hiking through the forest and leading lessons on trail with fifth and sixth graders from the local area.

Rebecca has also spent four seasons at Nature's Classroom. That time was spent teaching special interest classes, as well as leading hikes and activities that introduced the wild to the wide range of students that attended the program.

Rebecca is a graduate of Utica College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies. In her spare time she loves exploring the outdoors (especially the ocean), practicing the guitar, taking pictures, finding unique items at Good Will, and of course relaxing with a good book or movie.

### Questions for the Director:

#### **What is your favorite thing about being the Teen Expedition's Director?**

I have so many favorite things about being the Teen Expedition Director! I truly enjoyed seeing familiar faces each week for the summer and being able to get to know the teen campers as they arrived each week. Being able to see the campers change over the summer and make new friends, especially with other teens they may not be around during the school year. And of course I loved all the awesome trips TEX goes on throughout the summer!!

#### **What do you enjoy most about working with teenagers?**

The most enjoyable part of working with teenagers is the energy they bring and the excitement. One of the best parts for me is their honesty and being able to see all the amazing things they can accomplish, especially when you provide them with encouragement!

#### **What is your favorite thing about camp?**

My favorite thing about camp is watching staff and campers alike enter not knowing each other, but at the end leaving with new friendships. Camp has the ability to connect you to people you may of never had a chance to know. It also provides this sense of confidence in your abilities and yourself that is a product of this unique experience.